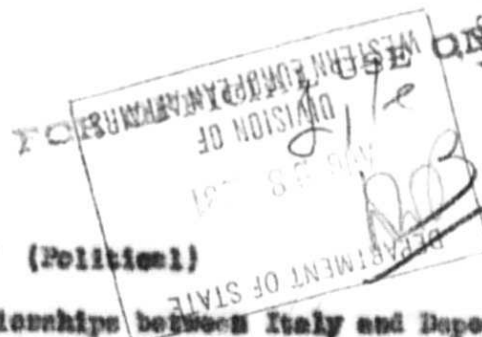


G-2 Report



ITALY (Political)

Subject : Relationships between Italy and Dependencies.  
New Governor for SOMALILAND.

By Royal Decree dated July 1, 1931, and in conformity with the decision passed upon by the Council of Ministers at the last meeting, Dr. Giulio GOMI was relieved from duty as Governor of Somaliland. Dr. Gomi had reportedly asked to be relieved on account of his failing health and for private reasons. On this occasion Minister De Bono wished to express to Governor Gomi his regret to see him leave the colonial administration after three years of service given, under difficult conditions of the ambient and the climate, with passion and fascist faith. Minister De Bono thanked Governor Gomi for his three years of laudable fatigue and sent him his acknowledgements and cordial salutations.

At the same time, July 1, 1931, the post of Governor of Somaliland was given by Royal Decree to Maurice RAY, formerly Secretary General and afterward - up to June 30, 1931 - Vice-Governor of Tripolitania.

Also, on the same date, by Royal Decree, Dr. Giovanni JUCO, Colonial Director at the Ministry of Colonies in Rome, was appointed Secretary General of Tripolitania.

The following is a biographic sketch of the new Governor of Somaliland which appeared in the "IL POPOLO D'ITALIA" (Mussolini's personal organ) on June 30, 1931 :

"Maurice RAY was born at Milan, on October 31, 1878. Besides various decorations including the Order of St. Maurice e Lorenzo, that of Malta, and that of the S. S. Sepolcro, he has been decorated with the White Cross of Finland and as a combatant at the Italian front during the World War he won three medals for bravery in action, and the right to wear the ribbons commemorative of the African Campaign of 1900 and those of the World War.

Having finished his High School studies at Milan, and receiving his degree in Law at Rome, at twenty years of age, he began his journeys in Africa and Asia for the "Italian Geographic Society" and thus commenced these studies of a Colonial character that still hold his intense interest.

Abyssinia, the Congo, the Uganda, the German Colonies, Burma, are some of the countries visited and studied by him; later, in 1908, he took part, as a volunteer, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant, in the campaign of occupation of Somaliland.

In Britain first, then in Libya he trained himself in Colonial life, studying thoroughly all the connections that exist between man and the soil, between the natives and the Italians.

His work and his studies are contained in his writings and in his opinions expounded with serene mind, free from personalities.

After the Armistice, still suffering from wounds received in the four years of trench life, Maurice Ray joined the group of War Veterans that gathered around the Dago in the historical gathering of Piazza S. Sepolcro, Milan.

In 1919 he was among the founders of the Roma Fascio, of which he became successively a member of the Directory and Vice General-Secretary. For his unshakable faith and his good judgment he was appointed President of the Court of Discipline of the Fasci of Rome.

from : R/A., Rome, Italy.

Report # 14562

August 6, 19

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MILITARY ATTACHE  
American Embassy  
ROME, ITALY

G-2 Report

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" " But Africa recalled him with its fascination. He returned to Tripoli. There he acted as Political Secretary of the Fascist Groups in Tripolitania, was then appointed Secretary General, and afterward Vice-Governor of Tripolitania.

Being one who fully understood all the exigencies of the expansionistic spirit he was, in these offices, capable of vivifying commerce and the local industries.

The Fascist Government well aware of the importance of working out a plan for the exploitation of Italy's overseas possessions has given the command in Somaliland to a hierarch who knowing perfectly all our colonial needs and interests, will be capable of bringing about a good and closer collaboration between the Italians and the natives."

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COMMENT :

Maurizio RIVA is reported to be a man of high culture and competent in colonial problems, especially those of agricultural and commercial nature. His career has been very rapid and he owes it to his loyalty to Fascism.

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JAMES L. COLLIER,  
Lieutenant Colonel, F.A.,  
Military Attache

Central File: Decimal File 865B.001, Internal Affairs Of States, Political Affairs., Somaliland, Chief Executive. Sovereign. Visits., no date. n.d. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731362%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC](https://link.gale.com/u?i=VFX1&fapp=VFX1&doc=FSC5109731362&FGDSC=FuDomni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC). Accessed 18 June 2025.